

DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that;

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the invention entitled SAFETY HOLD DOWN DEVICE AND HITCH GUIDE FOR TRAILER DECOUPLING PREVENTION described and claimed in the attached specification, which claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application Number 60/641,081 filed on 04/08/2003 ; that

I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of any inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns.

I hereby appoint the following agent to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Donald W. Meeker, Registration No. 28,792. Address all telephone calls to Donald W. Meeker at telephone (949) 675-6296.

Address all correspondence to Donald W. Meeker, Patent Agent, 924 East Ocean Front #E, Newport Beach, CA 92661.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: James G. Causey Jr.

Inventor's signature:

Residence:

Citizenship:

Post Office Address:

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Date 02/18/04

Applicants or Patentee: James G. Causey Jr.

Serial or Patent No.: 60/461,081

Filed or Issued: 04/08/2003

For: SAFETY HOLD DOWN DEVICE AND HITCH GUIDE FOR TRAILER DECOUPLING PREVENTION

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention SAFETY HOLD DOWN DEVICE AND HITCH GUIDE FOR TRAILER DECOUPLING PREVENTION described in

☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application serial no. _____ filed _____
☐ patent no. _____ issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37CFR 1.27).

FULL NAME N/A

ADDRESS N/A

☒ INDIVIDUAL

☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: James G. Causey Jr.

Signature of Inventor

James G. Causey Jr.

Date

02/18/04